



Connecting Threads

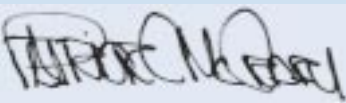
EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA

The National Park Service cares for special places saved by the American people so that all may experience our heritage.



From the Superintendent

Over the past few months, the staff of Lowell National Historical Park has mourned with our nation the events of September 11th. We have also gathered with the Greater Lowell community at the Patriotic Rally held at Boarding House Park and at other events, commemorating our loss but affirming our nation's pride and resilience. Together we march forward, changed, yet unceasing in our attempts to offer staff, residents and visitors a safe and rewarding experience of all that Lowell and the Park have to offer. We join the hundreds of other National Park sites across the country in telling the often-untold stories of our nation's heroes, its accomplishments, its challenges, its majestic beauty, and its resolve.



PATRICK C. MCCRARY

Creating Spaces for Commemoration, Education and Recovery

September 11, 2001, a late summer day that began like any other, will forever be etched in our memories as the day that America lost its innocence, and for a brief moment stood vulnerable before the world. Over four thousand human lives were lost, and as the surreal acts of terrorism unfurled before our eyes, as a nation we wept for our fallen brothers and sisters.

When traumatic events such as these occur, we are gripped with a conglomeration of emotions — fear, pain, anxiety, confusion, anger, patriotism, and concern along with a need for closure and understanding. We are often left asking “Why?” “What do we do now?” The events of September 11 are cause for such emotional response and concern. Immediately following the attacks, key players in the National Park Service’s Northeast Region gathered in New York to assess Park Service sites near Ground Zero, and to begin to formulate a plan for remembrance of the event.

The National Park Service reserves the title “National Memorial” for its commemorative sites. Unlike most National Parks, the actual location of a memorial can be on a site symbolic of the person or event it is commemorating, rather than on land where a particular event or historical happening occurred. A good example of this is the Lincoln Memorial in Washington D.C. The Service does dedicate a National Historic Site to President Lincoln at his home in Illinois, but the site of the Lincoln Memorial is on land in our nation’s capital, symbolic of President Lincoln’s service to our nation rather than anything particular that happened on that land.

Well-known memorials are the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, the USS Arizona National Memorial, and the Oklahoma City National Memorial. Patrick McCrary, Superintendent of Lowell National Historical Park, was instrumental in the creation of the Oklahoma City National Memorial after the destruction of the Alfred P. Murrah Building in 1995.

Memorials are a means of providing a sense of closure —

along with a mechanism to share our emotions, questions, and ideas. Oklahoma City and the Vietnam Wall have become sites of pilgrimage for the American people. Visitors come to cope with pain, to learn, to understand and to say goodbye. Poems, photos, flowers, letters and other objects have been left at these sites. The overwhelming outpouring of artifacts at each site prompted separate exhibits to preserve the emotional response of the American public. Already, New York's financial district has become such a site — from the wall of missing person photos — to the candles, flowers, poems, and letters that have been left at Ground Zero.

National Memorials are also places of



education. The Oklahoma City Memorial bears the quote: “We come here to remember those

who were killed, those who survived and those changed forever... May all who leave here know the impact of violence. May this memorial offer comfort, strength, peace, hope and serenity...”, as a sign that we can learn from such events, as well as grow stronger as a nation. ⚙️



WHO AM I?

I was born in 1828 in Amoskeag, New Hampshire, a mill village that later became part of the city of Manchester. I recall little of my parents. Father, a man of humble means, died when I was two. Mother, who found it terribly difficult to care for me and my brother and sister, sent us to live with our grandmother, for whom I have many fond memories. A devout Quaker, grandmother raised us in a rural New Hampshire town. Sadly, though,

she died when I was fourteen and I soon departed for Massachusetts in search of work. Eventually I got a job in one of Lowell's enormous textile mills where I grew to admire my female coworkers and the boardinghouse keepers who cared for us. Years later I reflected on my mill work and the many women who toiled in Lowell's factories: “I suppose the faces are yet in the [factory] windows, though they often change; and that the trembling window-sills support exhausted and agitated operatives as often now as they did years ago.” After I moved to Boston, where I worked as a domestic and then as a tailoress, I became involved in the antislavery movement. I volunteered at a military hospital during the Civil War and, along with my shopmates, I helped form a relief association for soldiers and their families. After the war I got involved in the labor movement. I spoke many times in Lowell on behalf of New England's striking textile workers and in support of the 10-hour day. With the aid of wealthier suffragists and female reformers, I opened Boffin's Bower, a social center for Boston's working women. In my efforts on behalf of working women and men, I sought to build a better society “renewed, though unchanged in general design.” ⚙️

See Answer on page 6

LOWELL FACTORY GIRLS.

We are permitted to make the following extracts from a letter addressed to the writer's parents in Europe. They will serve to show our "pretty Factory Girls" what an impression they make on a young Englishman, and what he thinks of them

"Ever since I read Dickens's enthusiastic eulogy on Lowell, I have been wishing to see it, and often have I listened with delight, to the tales of the Factory Girls of Lowell—of their neatness, health, nice dwellings, intelligence—how the daughters of the most substantial farmers, for a hundred miles around, were glad to take a peep at the great world, by becoming, for a time, Lowell Factory Girls; and, bless me, how keen the boys were after them, and the numbers who would get married, to the great discomfort of their employers.

We arrived here day before yesterday, and made straight tracks for the house of H. J. S., where we have been "putting up" during our stay here. H. has been a Factory Girl—one of the literary ones. She is now what she was then, an interesting contributor to several leading periodicals, and I must say, that she is guilty of the great political heresy of expressing the convictions of her heart, without reference to party or favor.

About the hour of dinner, my companion and I placed ourselves where several streams of girls pass on their way to their boarding-houses.

♦ We had not been at our posts many minutes when the great bells of the Factories began to chime, and we could see shoals of girls passing downwards at the stair windows, and soon—what an ordeal for a bachelor—the full tide of feminine humanity came trooping past us—blond and brunette, spare and plump—variety enough in conscience, and about as good looking a set of young women as I ever saw, and none the less so, I assure you, from the good nature that lighted up their countenances. I will add, for the special benefit of dear mother, that they wore, on their heads, either neat straw bonnets with green veils, or muslin "sun-bonnets," and that their dresses were what you call printed calico. Their feet were as trim as those of a New York belle.

K.

LOWELL HISTORY

Called the "Manchester of America" by the 1840s, Lowell and its textile mills attracted many visitors from abroad. Charles Dickens was among the most famous to visit, but many others came to see the factories, boardinghouses, and "mill girls." Some, like the Englishman "K" as seen at left in his letter published in the labor newspaper *Voice of Industry*, discovered that Lowell was also the center of labor activism and the campaign for the 10-hour workday. While visiting the city, "K" stayed at the boardinghouse of Huldah J. Stone, one of Lowell's prominent labor reformers who was branded by Samuel Lawrence, treasurer and agent of Lowell's Middlesex Mills, as "a radical of the worst sort." "K" recounts his impressions of the fiery Huldah Stone and the hundreds of "mill girls" who toiled in Lowell's mills. 🌀



The Tsongas Industrial History Center is completing a curriculum packet on Lowell's female labor reformers and the struggle for the 10-hour day, for teachers and students. For more information contact the Tsongas Center at 978-970-5080. 🌀

Ted Davis, LNHP Chief of Maintenance/ Facilities Manager

Ted Davis was born and raised in Southborough, Massachusetts. Ted graduated Algonquin Regional High School in 1964 and received his Bachelor's degree in Economics in 1968 from the University of Massachusetts, Amherst.

Upon graduation, inspired by President John F. Kennedy, Ted traveled to Udaipur, Rajasthan to serve as a Peace Corp volunteer. Ted worked as an extension agent with the Udaipur veterinary hospital and helped the local poultry cooperative set up a more lucrative marketing scheme in New Delhi. While in India, Ted had the privilege of meeting Prime Minister Indira Gandhi as well as living near Lake Palace, one of the more picturesque places in India.

While stopping in Hong Kong during his return to the US in 1970, Ted met a man who suggested he work for the government in Washington D.C. — and the rest, as they say, is history. Since that day Ted has worked for numerous agencies within the Department of the Interior. He began working for the Bureau of Outdoor Recreation as part of a team evaluating acquisition funds under the Land and Water Conservation Fund, as well as working on fee regulations.

In 1973, Ted married his wife, Sara, and transferred to Philadelphia, where his children, Teddy and Katie, were born. There he worked reviewing highway environmental statements and preparing the departmental comments on projects such as the West Side Highway and the Southern Tier Expressway.

For the next twelve years, Ted worked on various projects for the

Stateside of the Land and Water Conservation Fund, the Rails-to-Trails program, and Gateway National Recreational Area [stationed at Floyd Bennett Field in Southern Brooklyn]. Also during this time, Ted returned to school and in 1982 received a degree in Civil Engineering and Construction Technology at Temple University.

In 1985, Ted transferred to Lowell National Historical Park. Over the course of his stay in Lowell Ted has been an integral player in numerous developments, such as: rehabilitation of the Suffolk Mill Turbine Exhibit, the Boardinghouse and Mogan Cultural Center, Kirk Street Agents House, and the transformation of the Boott Mills — from a dilapidated non-working mill, to the magnificent museum that stands today. In addition to these projects, Ted oversees a maintenance staff of approximately 41 workers, and actively participates in Keep Lowell Beautiful, a local affiliate that provides Riverwalk beautification as well as educational programs on community environmentalism. ⚙️



A Bird in the Hand

On August 23rd, a Park Visitor found an American Kestrel fledgling in the Market Mills Courtyard. Fearing the bird would not sur-



vive on its own on the ground, the Kestrel was taken in by Park Rangers. It was not known if the bird was injured but it could not fly on its own and it was thought it may have fallen out of its nest in its first attempt at flight. Rangers transported the young raptor to the renowned

Tufts University School of Veterinary Medicine in North Grafton for evaluation. Our little friend, a three month old female, was found in good shape but overweight causing some problems with her aerodynamic capabilities. Our Kestrel was assigned case #989.

American Kestrels has been spotted at Boott Mills and Market Mills in Lowell. The Kestrel is a member of the hawk family and is in fact the most common raptor in North America.

WHO AM I?

Answer from page 3:
Jennie Collins. She died of consumption in Brookline, Massachusetts, on July 20, 1887. The quotes are from her book *Nature's Aristocracy; or Battles and Wounds in Time and Peace: A Plea for the Oppressed*, published in 1871. 🌀

ON EXHIBIT

The People of Lowell: Past and Present

This spring, the Mogan Cultural Center will host a new exhibition exploring the rich history and diversity of Lowell's people. Under the auspices of Lowell National Historical Park and the University of Massachusetts Lowell, the Patrick J.



Mogan Cultural Center Community Committee has sought and will review proposals submitted from the community for the exhibit. Together with associated public programming, the exhibit is intended to reflect the city's social mosaic in a way that contributes to lively cross-cultural exchange

among residents and to creatively present the personality of the city and its people. The exhibit, which will run from May to December 2002, will draw from history, folklore, anthropology, literature, sociology, and/or the visual and performing arts.

For information about the exhibit project, please contact:

Mogan Cultural Center Community Committee, c/o Martha Mayo, Director,
Center for Lowell History, 40 French Street, Lowell, MA 01852,
Tel (978) 934-4998. 🌀

The return of the Kestrel in the Lowell area is a sign of the revitalization of the Merrimack River watershed ecosystem and the adaptability of these unique birds of prey to thrive in an urban environment. Kestrels are cavity nesters which makes the nooks and crannies found in Lowell's old mills ideal places for them. The high rooflines of the mills and other buildings offer a

great perch to spot prey. At the Boott Mills this past year a nesting pair of Kestrels were often spotted on the shuttle weathervane of the historic Boott belltower.

Currently, our little Kestrel #989 is doing great and has learned to fly! She will be turned over to a foster breeder and released in the Spring. 🌀

CALENDAR



I Remember Lowell

This winter, Lowell National Historical Park and the Lowell Historical Society will host "I Remember Lowell." These programs will consist of small panel of folks sharing their memories of Lowell. You too can reminisce about your youth because audience participation is highly encouraged!

All of the programs will take place in the Boott Cotton Mills Events Center (on the second floor, 400 Foot of John Street) at 2:30 P.M. on Saturdays. The dates and topics are:

December 8, 2001 – The 1940s: World War II

January 5, 2002 – The 1950s: Fast Cars and Rock & Roll

February 9, 2002 – The 1960s: Choices and Changes

March 2, 2002 – The Blizzard of '78

Come share your memories, thoughts or just learn from others about Lowell's rich history. Bring a family member or friend and make a new memory as you remember old times. 🌀

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Cover photo: Monument to “mill girl” Louisa Wells
at Lowell Cemetery.

RETURN ADDRESS:

Lowell National Historical Park
67 Kirk Street
Lowell, MA 01852-1029

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For more information on any of the items contained within, please
contact the Park at 67 Kirk Street, Lowell, MA 01852, 978-970-5000
(978-970-5002 TDD for the hearing impaired), www.nps.gov/lowe.

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